

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 20-23, with the following amended paragraph:

Also, an expandable shaft that provides a preload to the rolling elements using an elastic restoring force of the tubular outer shaft has been proposed (for example, see German Unexamined Patent Publication No. 3730393A1, hereinafter "DE '393").

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 4-9, with the following amended paragraph:

In the ~~patent document 4~~ DE '393 reference, a quantity of relative rotation of the inner shaft and the outer shaft is limited by allowing an angular protrusion formed on the outer peripheral surface of the inner shaft to engage with a semicircular concave portion formed on the inner peripheral surface of the outer shaft when high torque is applied.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 20-25 through page 9, lines 1-3, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 2 again, the inner ~~shaft 13~~shaft 14 comprises a ~~hallow~~hollow shaft, that is, a tube. Two pairs of flat portions 21 and 22 that oppose each other and form a width across flat in between are formed on the outer peripheral surface 141 of the inner shaft 14. Limiting portions 31 and 32 for limiting a quantity of relative rotation of the outer shaft 13 and the inner shaft 14 by engaging with the

corresponding flat portions 21 and 22 of the inner shaft 14 are formed on the inner peripheral surface 131 of the outer shaft 13.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 23-25 through page 12, lines 1-11, with the following amended paragraph:

It is preferable that the diameter of the balls 15 is in a range from 10 to 40% of the outside diameter of the outer shaft 13. More specifically, when the diameter of the balls 15 is less than 10% of the outside diameter of the outer shaft 13, impression may occur on the balls 15 and the raceway grooves 16 and 17. On the contrary, when the diameter of the balls 15 exceeds 40% of the outside diameter of the outside shaft 13, the outer shaft 13 is increased in size, which increases the intermediate ~~shaft 5~~shaft 5a as the expandable shaft in size. When the inner shaft 14 is reduced in size without changing the outer diameter of the outer shaft 13 to avoid an increase in size, the inner shaft 14 has an insufficient strength and the radius of contact of the inner raceway groove is reduced, which in turn readily gives rise to impression.

Please replace the paragraph on page 22, lines 19-25, with the following amended paragraph:

The raceway grooves 16, the bending portions 330, the limiting portions 71 to 74, and the opposing portions 75 and 76 are formed so that they are smoothly continuous by a curve having a larger radius of curvature than the thickness of the outer shaft 13D. Tops of protrusions 53, 54 of the outer shaft 13D are preferably

disposed on a ~~circumference-C2~~ circumference including the outer circumference of the opposing portions 75 and 76.